GLEN PARK NEWS

DECEMBER 1992

Green Space Action

By Jeff Byers

The GPA has entered the second phase of its effort to protect the Glen Park Panhandle — the strip of trees and grass on the north side of Bosworth Street.

At the November meeting, the Ad Hoc Green Space Committee presented the membership with a comprehensive list of possible ways to preserve the panhandle. The committee recommended that we fight for the city to retain ownership and continue maintenance using normal department funds. This could be done by the current owner, the Department of Public Works, or by the Rec and Park Department if they were willing to accept responsibility. Severe cutbacks in the Rec and Park budget would seem to make the latter unlikely, at least during the current budget crisis.

After an active discussion the following motion was passed: That the GPA strongly support the preservation of the panhandle as public open space; that our goal be for the Department of Public Works to continue ownership and maintenance of the land; and that we put on hold any discussions with city departments about alternatives that would involve maintenance by anyone other than the city.

Since the committee had completed its original assignment to study alternatives and present them to the membership, a motion was also passed appointing the same committee of five to act as GPA's agent in carrying out the above motion.

All of us owe a debt of thanks to the Ad Hoc Green Space Committee, and especially to its chair, Bruce Bonacker, for presenting us with such good information. Questions, suggestions, and offers of assistance should be directed to Bruce at 777-2555.

Earthquake Preparedness Update: What You Can Do!

When—not *if*—but when the big earthquake comes, would you know what to do? That is, after you duck, cover and hold? What would you do if a loved one needed medical attention?

Several members of Glen Park Association challenged themselves this fall. We took a class in order to join the Neighborhood Emergency Response Team, otherwise known as NERT. This class taught us how to handle the immediate crises that erupt before emergency professionals arrive. We also got to know one another well enough to depend on each other for emergency search and rescue.

One night a week for five weeks, we met with various firemen, particularly the program coordinator, Frank Lucier, who helped get the course planned. The course includes a wonderful 75-page booklet covering some of the following subjects: disaster preparedness, utility control, fire fighting equipment, disaster medicine, rescue and emergency supply lists. The earthquake kit is also a fascinating project in itself. In short, this course teaches you to handle just about anything.

At the end of the course, we were certified by the San Francisco Fire Department to handle the next shaker. We even got a certificate, a hard hat and an orange vest.

Even though Glen Park is a community of several thousand, there were only fourteen in our class. We need more people to take the class and we also need people to make up search and rescue teams.

Even though it may not seem like the "big one"

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The *Glen Park News*

The *Glen Park News* is published by the Glen Park Association. It appears quarterly, on March 1st, June 1st, September 1st and December 1st.

Signed articles in the *Glen Park News* reflect the opinions of the authors and not necessarily those of the Glen Park Association.

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Glen Park Association *Notes*

Peter Folger Tennis Court Renovation

On Monday, October 5th, a proposal was made to the Open Space Committee for the renovation of the Peter Folger tennis courts in Glen Park. This proposal is backed by the GPA. One court has been patched and should be open shortly. The other court will be patched subsequently. We want to thank Floyd Ray, the Recreation Director, for having this patching work done.

Nevertheless, patching is only a temporary solution to the longstanding problem of structural weakness which has always been the cause of the endless cracking and swelling in our courts. Floyd is also trying to get better lighting and wind screens as well as having the fences repaired.

If the proposal is accepted, work would probably not begin until sometime in 1994. In the meantime, the Rec and Park Planning Department (666-7087) and the Director of Tennis for the City of San Francisco (753-7032) need to hear that the tennis courts are an important resource to the community as a whole and that you support the renovation of our courts.

If you have any ideas or wish to lend your name in support of this project, please feel free to contact the chairperson of tennis court renovation, Miriam Moss, at 585-1635.

Glen Park Merchants' Association

by Dan Gustavson, DDS, President

The Glen Park Merchants' Association has met several times since last reporting to the Glen Park News. A brief overview of our concerns and ideas pertaining to local and city-wide issues is listed below:

Our most recent meeting focused on political issues such as propositions 166, 167 and 163 and their effect on small businesses. We also supported tighter control over aggressive panhandling as did the San Francisco Council of District Merchants' Associations.

We have been strengthening our efforts to control the litter problem in the Glen Park Neighborhood and all merchants have city regulations and information regarding litter. Non-compliance can lead to substantial fines for merchants. We're doing our part to clean up the neighborhood—are you?

We have met with Bernie Kelley regarding his plan to build housing/retail space at the corner of Diamond and Bosworth streets. Although the Merchants'

Association members disagree with a few minor details of the proposed building, we feel that the overall concept of changing the merchant area and more dense housing near the BART station is favorable. The merchants feel that the preservation of green space along Bosworth street is important and support any effort to do so. However, in light of the very small area affected by Mr. Kelley's proposed building bordered by Bosworth, Brompton and Kern streets, we do not feel that the sale of this space will undoubtedly prompt the sale by the City of the vastly larger green space parcels extending further along Bosworth. It is also known that Mr. Kelley will replace vegetation along Bosworth, thereby dispelling fears that the proposed building will be a stark concrete and glass behemoth.

Change is often difficult to accept, and there are always good and bad points. But if not for change, many of us would be filling up at a gas station, rather than filling up at *Cafe?* and many of us would drive downtown instead of riding BART! We feel that, considering all options, change at the corner of Bosworth and Diamond is good for neighbors and merchants alike.

Traffic News

by Linda Montgomery

Some big changes are planned for the south side of Bosworth Street in front of the BART station. The two or three parking spaces at the end of the bus zone will be replaced with a loading zone. The bus zone will be shortened, leaving a 120 ft. bus zone and and 84 ft. loading zone. This should be done by year's end.

Unfortunately, this will come too late for the unhappy motorist I saw during the evening rush on October 20th actually getting a ticket for parking in the middle of the bus zone!

Supervisor Jim Gonzalez had been instrumental in getting Captain John Newlin, the executive director of the Parking and Traffic Commission, to look at the traffic problem at the intersection of Elk and Chenery as part of our request for stop signs.

A hearing will probably be required in order to get the requested stop signs. As a reminder to all you Glen Park residents who have called me with your personal traffic horror stories, **I must have them in writing**. Please send them to me at 762 Chenery St. I will keep you posted as the process continues.

In the next newsletter, there will be information about the long-awaited traffic and parking study which has just now become available, but too late to print in the newsletter.

Calendar

Christmas Party Benefit for St. Anthony's
December 12, from 2-4 p.m. at the Miraloma Clubhouse—*(For details, see page 6).*

Potluck and Glen Park Architectural Heritage
At the January 12th GPA meeting, find out why heritage is important to the future of Glen Park, *(see page 6 for details).* The potluck will begin at 6:30 p.m.

An exhibit of photographs by Ellen Rosenthal
November 11 through January 11 at the Sidetrack Café, 1793 Church (30th & Church).

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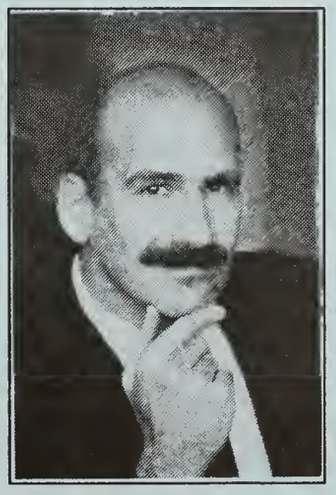

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- Glen Park homeowner
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Roots, Causes and Costs

by Roberta Caravelli

All long-term San Francisco residents have witnessed the decline in city services. Yet, according to the analysis of Mayor Jordan's original '92-'93 budget done by Dehnert Queen, CEO of the Small Business Development Corporation and a close associate of mine, San Francisco has one city employee for every 29 residents. The city of Sunnyvale which rates, reviews and rewards its departments based on standard levels of service, manages to provide for residents with one employee per 160 residents.

Bud Wilson, president of the Greater West Portal Neighborhood Association, was very involved in the recent police department redistricting. He learned that, although San Francisco had 1800 police officers, only 800 were on the streets at the time .

School Board member Leland Yee claims that last year our school district laid off teaching assistants and then hired an almost equal number of administrators. According to Dehnert Queen's recent report on the school budget, 50% of the $7100 per child is spent for administrative needs.

Because San Francisco has a combined Community College/Adult Education System, we pay college rates to teachers of remedial and non-academic courses. Most courses (well over half) taught through the system fall into this category.

At the July meeting of the Glen Park Association, a gentleman told attendees that as a city worker who tries to do his job, he must watch as others avoid work. He pointed to the hiring of relatives as common practice, but he didn't talk about the patronage jobs at the higher levels.

City employees cannot be fired for incompetence. But unlike other government jobs where the employee chooses job security over a good salary, city employees are well-paid. They average about 130% of what people in private industry would earn for the same work. Nationwide, they have higher salaries than employees of other communities. Benefits and perks are also better than average, with a retirement plan that is almost perfect. They also belong to one of the few functioning unions left in this town, so they are well-protected.

How does this effect residents? My water bill used to be $9, is now $46, yet my water use is currently $6. Muni fares, and probably BART fares and Fast Passes will be increased again soon. We can count on sales tax being increased after the election even though San Francisco has the highest rate in the state now.

Most importantly for Glen Park, not only will we pay higher fees and taxes, but we will now lose one of our few real amenities. The city is claiming that to save money it must sell our open space along Bosworth. It claims it cannot afford the maintenance. This is a blatant misrepresentation, and the only question is will Glen Park residents sit back and let it happen. **It will depend on you!**

To stop them we will have to appear at the public hearings in great numbers (at least 200). In a neighborhood of over 5,000 residents this should be quite easy if the people care about the issue. It may be necessary to take time off from work, and if enough Glen Parkers care we may save our green space. Jeff Byers will call you to notify you of the hearings and when you will be needed. Call him at 584-1804, give him your phone number and commit to attend the meetings. **We cannot do it without you!**

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Our Architectural Heritage

By Ken Hoegger

Does Glen Park have an architectural heritage? Why is the concept of heritage important to the future of Glen Park? With remodeling, expansion and renovation applications on the rise in our neighborhood, our architectural heritage is being stretched in all directions. Is there a benefit for homeowners to consider improvements which complement and enhance the neighborhood's existing architectural character?

A distinguished panel of guests will offer insights into these questions at the January 12 GPA general meeting. They will also address City Planning's new residential building guidelines and the permit process. A question and answer session will follow. The panel will include the following members and guests:

- Lauren Weiss Bricker, Ph.D., architectural history consultant and historian at the Foundation for San Francisco's Architectural Heritage;
- Jean Kortum, historian and member of the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board;
- John Karigan, general contractor and building inspector;
- Scott Brasfield, architect, specializing in residential development and resident of Glen Park;
- Ken Hoegger, real estate broker, Mason-McDuffie West of Twin Peaks office.

Panel facilitator will be GPA President, Joan Seiwald.

Lauren Bricker and Jean Kortum will discuss the significance of Glen Park and its characteristic architectural styles. Slides will be used to illustrate. Architect Scott Brasfield will discuss various alternatives to adding rooms—creating additional living space while maintaining the scale of the neighborhood. Ken Hoegger and John Karigan will join the other panelists during the discussion to address questions relating to resale value and construction costs.

The Glen Park Association is honored to have such a distinguished panel of guests assist us in defining our architectural identity.

There will first be a potluck dinner, scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m.

Mason-McDuffie To Sponsor Fundraiser for St. Anthony's Dining Room

The 15th Annual Christmas Party Benefit for St. Anthony's Dining Room will be sponsored by Mason-McDuffie's West of Twin Peaks office. The party wil be held at the Miraloma Clubhouse (O'Shaughnessy **Blvd. at Del Vale) on Saturday, December 12, from 2 to 4 p.m.**

Ken Hoegger, Manager of Mason-McDuffie's 30 Monterey location (previously Forum Realty) says, "This year we look forward to our neighborhood children participating in the event. Several of our schools have agreed to enter a poster contest. We welcome the participation of the youngsters in this project."

Highlights of the event include a visit from Santa Claus, who will pose for photos with children , a performance by magician David Wall and music by the Matteo Casserino Mandolin Players. An array of holiday hors d'oeuvres and libations will be served.

Guests are requested to bring canned foods or personal checks to support St. Anthony's efforts to feed the homeless during the holiday season. St. Anthony Foundation representative Charlene Tschirhart will be available to acknowledge all donations and describe the foundation's goals for the coming year.

For more information, call (415) 239-6300.

Earthquake Preparedness

(Continued from Page 1)

is right around the corner—especially to those who have grown up here—this is much too important to set aside for later. Not only that, but it's a great way to meet your neighbors. The cost is twenty dollars, which covers equipment and materials.

If NERT training sounds like it might be for you, we will be signing up for another session of classes sometime in the spring. If you would like to take the class, call Eliza Robertson, the GPA volunteer coordinator, at 587-1509.

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FUTURE GPA MEETINGS

December 8th: No meeting!
January 12th: Potluck (6:30 pm) followed by general meeting and panel presentation on Glen Park architectural heritage.